

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 18780 241307Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 /100 W
----- 021755

R 241233Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4897

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL PALERMO

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 6776

UNCLAS ROME 18780

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EINV, EGEN, IT

SUBJECT: CABINET APPROVES DRAFT LAW FOR SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT

REF: ROME A-540, 11/21/75

1. GOI CABINET DECEMBER 23 APPROVED MAJOR COMPONENT OF MEDIUM-TERM PROGRAM COVERING AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN ITALY (MEZZOGIORNO). PRESS REPORTS INDICATE DRAFT MEASURE, WHICH NOW GOES TO PARLIAMENT FOR DEBATE AND APPROVAL, CALLS FOR FIVE-YEAR INVESTMENTS TOTALING 16,000 BILLION LIRE (\$23 BILLION) TO BE UNDERTAKEN ACCORDING TO A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO BE DRAFTED BY THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING (CIPE).

MAJOR ELEMENTS:

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PAGE 02 ROME 18780 241307Z

(A) RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOCAL- AND REGIONAL-ORIENTED

PROJECTS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FROM EXISTING GOI SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CASSA PER
IL MEZZOGIORNO), WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REALIZATION
OF INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND PROJECTS OF INTER-REGIONAL
OR NATIONAL INTEREST;
(B) INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVES WILL BE AIMED AT JOB CREATION THROUGH
SUBSIDIES FOR EACH NEW JOB CREATED. AIM IS TO STIMULATE
SMALL- AND MEDIUM-INDUSTRY;
(C) CREATION OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE MEZZOGIORNO
DEVELOPMENT; AND
(D) COORDINATION OF MEZZOGIORNO PROJECTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO
PROPOSED COMMISSION OF PRESIDENTS OF THE REGIONS.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT: GOI-DRAFT PLAN FALLS SHORT OF CHANGES
DESIRED BY MAJOR CRITICS, PARTICULARLY COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI),
BUT REPRESENTS CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT FROM SIMPLE DEFENSE OF THE
STATUS QUO. MEASURE WILL NOW BE DEBATED BY PARLIAMENT, BUT IF
GOI HAS DONE ITS HOMEWORK, PLAN SHOULD BE APPROVED
SUBSTANTIALLY UNCHANGED. VOLPE

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